

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01 SAJ-01 IGA-02

EB-11 SAM-01 (ISO) W

----- 026189

R 260824Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

RUHQHQACINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 6415

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MILI, KS, US

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION ON SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM)

REF: SEOUL 6381

1. LOCAL PRESS SEPT 26 CONTINUED HEAVY COVERAGE OF SCM WITH FOCUS ON THE JOINT STATEMENT. EMPHASIS IN PRESS WAS ON U.S. ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN SECURITY OF ROK.
2. PRESS REPORTED US ASSURANCES OF PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF ATTACK ON ROK, AFFIRMATION THAT USG HAS NO PLAN TO REDUCE FORCES IN KOREA, PLEDGE TO STRIVE TO MEET NEEDS OF ROK IN IMPLEMENTATION MILITARY MOD PLAN AND PROMISE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING JOINT ROK-US DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL VENTURES. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT MINISTER SUH AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS NOTED THAT MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF NORTH KOREA CONTINUE TO POSE SERIOUS THREAT TO ROK.

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3. ACCORDING PRESS, DEFENSE MINISTER EXPRESSED

SATISFACTION AT SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF SCM. PAPERS DIFFER ON ROK GAINS FROM SCM. LEADING TONGA ILBO WRITES THAT ROKG HAS MAINTAINED STATUS QUO AT MEETING IN STORY HEADLINED "NO PROGRESS-- NO RETREAT," ALTHOUGH TONGA SEES THIS AS ACHIEVEMENT IN ITSELF IN VIEW NEGATIVE US PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT MILITARY AID. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES ALSO POINTS OUT THAT US DID NOT AGREE TO ANY NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR KOREA WHILE IN PAST SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE FOR M-16 PLANT OR MOD PLAN HAD BEEN REACHED. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT SEOUL SHINMUN VIEWS STATEMENTS ON MAINTAINING US FORCES IN ROK AND ON AID FOR DEFENSE INDUSTRY AS IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS ON PART USG AND CONSIDERS AGREEMENT ON NORTH KOREAN THREAT AS IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT SINCE ROK AND US HAD DISAGREED ON THREAT SINCE 1968.

4. TONGA ILBO CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS "CAREFULLY CONDUCTED" SINCE THE US WAS CONSCIOUS OF DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST FOREIGN MILITARY AID.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740271-0871
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740911/aaaaajbs.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 6381
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION ON SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM)
TAGS: MARR, MILI, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005